

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A pneumatic radial tire comprising:

a radial carcass having at least one rubberized cord ply extending between a pair of bead cores embedded in a pair of bead portions and reinforcing a pair of sidewall portions and a tread portion,

a belt reinforcing the tread portion at an outside of the carcass and consisting of three rubberized cord layers each containing steel cords therein, an innermost cord layer and a middle cord layer among these cord layers being a cross cord layer that cords of the layers are crossed with each other with respect to an equatorial plane of the tire, and

one or more circumferential grooves provided in at least each side region of the tread portion,

in which the cords of each of the innermost cord layer and the middle cord layer have an inclination angle of 10-25° with respect to the equatorial plane, and cords of an outermost cord layer have an inclination angle of 45-115° with respect to the equatorial plane as measured in the same direction as in the cords of the middle cord layer, and the outermost cord layer has a width extending toward an end of the tread portion over an outermost groove edge of an outermost circumferential groove in a widthwise direction of the tread portion and being narrower than a width of the innermost cord layer but ~~being equal to or wider than~~ corresponding to 1.0-1.2 times

a width of the middle cord layer, and a coating rubber for the cords of the outermost cord layer has a compression modulus of not less than  $200 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$ .

2. (canceled)

3. (original): A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1, wherein the outermost cord layer has a width covering both widthwise ends of the middle cord layer.

4. (canceled).

5. (original): A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 3, wherein a rubber gauge between the cord at an end portion of the middle cord layer and the cord of the outermost cord layer adjacent thereto is not less than 0.15 time a rubber gauge between the cord at the end portion of the middle cord layer and the cord of the innermost cord layer adjacent thereto.

6. (original): A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1, wherein an end portion of at least one of the innermost cord layer and the middle cord layer is provided with an sheet-shaped end cover rubber enveloping such an end portion, and at least one surface of inner and outer surfaces of the cord layer end portion provided with the end cover rubber is a wavy surface forming a mountain part at a cord existing position and a valley part at a position between

adjoining cords, and a difference of height between the mountain part and the valley part is within a range of 0.05-0.25 mm.

7. (original): A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the innermost cord layer and the middle cord layer is provided with a rubber layer joined to a widthwise end face of the cord layer over a full periphery of the cord layer, and the rubber layer has a width of 0.05-5.00 mm.

8-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented): A pneumatic radial tire comprising:  
a radial carcass having at least one rubberized cord ply extending between a pair of bead cores embedded in a pair of bead portions and reinforcing a pair of sidewall portions and a tread portion,

a belt reinforcing the tread portion at an outside of the carcass and consisting of three rubberized cord layers each containing steel cords therein, an innermost cord layer and a middle cord layer among these cord layers being a cross cord layer that cords of the layers are crossed with each other with respect to an equatorial plane of the tire, and

one or more circumferential grooves provided in at least each side region of the tread portion,

in which the cords of each of the innermost cord layer and the middle cord layer have an inclination angle of 10-25° with respect to the equatorial plane, and cords of an outermost cord layer have an inclination angle of not less than 45° and less than 90° with respect to the equatorial plane as measured in the same direction as in the cords of the middle cord layer, and the outermost cord layer has a width extending toward an end of the tread portion over an outermost groove edge of an outermost circumferential groove in a widthwise direction of the tread portion and being narrower than a width of the innermost cord layer, and a coating rubber for the cords of the outermost cord layer has a compression modulus of not less than 200 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>.

25. (previously presented): The pneumatic radial tire according to claim 24, wherein the outermost cord layer has a width equal to or wider than a width of the middle cord layer.